

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION
(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

Toz

Commissioner
US Department of Commerce
United States Patent and Trademark
Office, PCT
2011 South Clark Place Room
CP2/5C24
Arlington, VA 22202
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year)
07 May 2001 (07.05.01)

International application No.
PCT/GB00/03203

International filing date (day/month/year)
17 August 2000 (17.08.00)

Applicant
SMYTH, Ian, C. et al

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

14 March 2001 (14.03.01)

in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election was

was

was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32,2(b).

**The International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland**

Authorized officer

Olivia TFFY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 53531/001	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/GB00/03203	International filing date (day/month/year) 17/08/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 17/08/1999

International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC
B04C5/02

Applicant

Baker Hughes Limited et al.

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 14/03/2001	Date of completion of this report 15.05.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority: European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Schlesier, K-G Telephone No. +49 89 2399 2079



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/GB00/03203

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, pages:

1-8 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-11 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/4-4/4 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:

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EXAMINATION REPORT**

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the drawings, sheets:

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):
(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims 1-11
	No: Claims
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims 1-11
	No: Claims
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims 1-11
	No: Claims

2. Citations and explanations
see separate sheet

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:
see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:
see separate sheet

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EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

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Section V:

1. Since the idea of creating a hydrocyclone comprising a body, an inlet, a central overflow and a central underflow connection, whereby an overflow back wall presenting an inclined face is designed as to comprise a radially inner and a radially outer portion so that the fluid entering the hydrocyclone flow in at least two different paths having at least two axial velocity components for improved phase separation performance, as indicated in claim 1, is neither known from nor rendered obvious by the prior art documents cited in the search report the subject-matter of claim 1 appears to satisfy the criterion set forth in Art. 33 PCT.
2. Dependent claims 2 to 11 relate to additional details of the hydrocyclone of claim 1 and therefore inherit the novelty and inventiveness of that claim .

Section VII:

1. Independent claim 1 is not in the two-part form in accordance with Rule 6.3(b) PCT, which in the present case would be appropriate, with those features known in combination from the closest prior art (appears to be WO-A-9705956) being placed in a preamble (Rule 6.3(b)(i) PCT) and with the remaining features being included in a characterising part (Rule 6.3(b)(ii) PCT).
2. The features of the claims are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).
3. According to Rule 10.2 PCT the terminology shall be consistent throughout the international application. This requirement is not met e.g. for the terms "housing/body", "inner and outer ramp/portion" or "connection/exit/outlet".

Section VIII:

1. It is clear from the description on page 3, lines 6 to 10 that the following features are essential to the definition of the invention:

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a specially designed back wall ramp featuring multiple side-by-side spiralling slopes, the steepest slope being furthest from the longitudinal axis with adjacent slopes becoming shallower as measured radially inwardly toward the longitudinal axis.

Since independent claim 1 does not contain these features - which appear to be partly contained in present claim 2 (shallow inner ramp, steep outer ramp) - it does not meet the requirement following from Article 6 PCT taken in combination with Rule 6.3(b) PCT that any independent claim must contain all the technical features essential to the definition of the invention.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 53531/001	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/GB 00/ 03203	International filing date (day/month/year) 17/08/2000	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 17/08/1999
Applicant Baker Hughes Limited		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 03 sheets.

It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

contained in the international application in written form.

filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

as suggested by the applicant.

because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

because this figure better characterizes the invention.

1

None of the figures.

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Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

The deficiencies under Rule 8.1 (d) are rectified as follows:
Ln. 2:...hydrocyclone (10)...ramp (14,16)...
Ln. 4:...axis (20)...

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

GB 00/03203

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 B04C5/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B04C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

WPI Data, EPO-Internal, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 97 05956 A (BAKER HUGHES) 20 February 1997 (1997-02-20) cited in the application claim 1 figures ---	1
A	GB 955 308 A (THE BRAUER BROS) cited in the application page 2, line 17 -page 3, line 48 figures ---	1
A	US 3 494 474 A (M. ESTABROOK) column 2, line 31 -column 4, line 14 figures 1-7 -----	1

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report

25 October 2000

02/11/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Authorized officer

Laval, J

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB 00/03203

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO 9705956	A 20-02-1997	EP NO	0843596 A 980558 A	27-05-1998 08-04-1998
GB 955308	A	US	3288300 A	29-11-1966
US 3494474	A 10-02-1970		NONE	